SALEM COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS March 6, 2013 MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Director Acton:

Freeholder Vanderslice offered the prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Director Acton stated that adequate notice pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act has been given of this meeting.

On Roll Call, the following Freeholders were present: Deputy Director Cross, Freeholders Laury, Vanderslice, Bobbitt, Timberman, Ware, and Director Acton.

Motion was made by Deputy Director Cross to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the February 16, 2013 Executive Session. February 20th Workshop, Regular meeting and Executive Session. Minutes to be received, approved and recorded in the Minute Book, seconded by Freeholder Cross, and carried 7/0.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Director Acton Presented Kyle Clement from the SCVTS with the PSEG Green Scholarship

Deputy Director Cross Presented Carrie Ruffin with the National Caregiver Awareness Month Proclamation

Salem County's Fireman's Association John Turner read the following:

Position statement Presented to the Salem County Board of Freeholders on March 6, 2013 regarding their recent decision to place the 911 operations under the direction of the Sheriff.

Members of the Freeholder Board, I am here this evening representing once again the Fire Service of Salem County to present to you our position on the recent action you took place the 911 under the direction of the Sheriff.

I was here at your December 2012 meeting in an attempt to address this issue which, at that time, was in the investigative stages as we were told and we were assured that nothing would change relevant to the dispatching service for the fire or EMS people. After that meeting, a meeting between Freeholder Cross, Fire Coordinator Hoffman and myself along with the Secretary of the Salem Co Firemen's Association took place. At that time, Freeholder Cross told us that a full evaluation and review of the current 911 operations would be conducted by the Sheriff's Office and an assessment and evaluation report would be made. Most times, an assessment and evaluation report is comprised of a written document which reports the current status and findings, areas for improvement and recommendations to correct/improve upon current operations. When we left that meeting, we were left with the impression that once this report was available. It would be shared with the Fire Service to review and have an opportunity to offer comment.

Let's look back at some history of the current 911 center at this time. In the late 1950's and early 1960's the County Fire Marshall and several local fire chiefs saw the need for better communications between fire companies. A recommendation by this group was made to the Freeholders for the purchase of starter equipment, which was approved and with the oversight of members of the fire service, the first county radio service was established and implemented. As the years went on, this very basic operation was expanded as more Salem County fire companies purchased radios and later housed on the top floor of the old jail. Through the Salem County Fireman's Association, a committee was formed, The Radio Advisory Committee. The members of this committee were representatives of the Salem Co Firemen's Association, The Salem Co Ambulance

Association, The Fire Marshal's Office, Director of Emergency Services and Chief Communications Officer. To this day, this committee was and is instrumental in continued review of SOP's and SOG's and to receive and discuss any problems (or complaints) that those in the field may have. The SOP/SOG's assist our Dispatchers in doing their job and give them guidance on what those in the field expect based on the type of incident. The 911 operations as we know it today is in no way the same it was back in the early 1960's, it is greatly improved service and operation to us and we continue to be passionate with our involvement in making it better through our Radio Advisory Committee.

Somewhere along the line, maybe the 1990's, I am not sure of the exact date, the County entertained the idea of offering County wide police dispatch. This was not recommended by our Radio Advisory Committee nor did our committee have any input or be asked for help in establishing procedures similar to what we have on the Fire/EMS side for the police side and we have no issues with the fact we were not involved. I think everyone can agree that how the Fire/EMS environment operates is not the same as how Police/Law Enforcement environment operates. With the addition of Police/Law Enforcement dispatching at the 911 Center, the Radio Advisory Committee continued to function.

My point to this is, the 911 operations that we have today, is what it is from its birth a result of the fire service. Freeholder Cross and other have stated to us multiple times that there is nothing wrong with the Fire/EMS side of the 911 operations, but he feels there is improvement needed on Police/Law Enforcement side of dispatching. If the Fire/EMS side is working so well, as we have been commended, wouldn't one think that one of the suggestions or recommendations that you would find in the assessment and evaluation report possibly be that the current procedures being used by Fire/EMS be reviewed and that similar be implemented for the Police/Law Enforcement side?

The Dispatchers working the 911 center, from the Fire/EMS service side, do an outstanding job. Through our Radio Advisory Committee there are SOP/SOG's in place which assist them in doing their job. With our alarm cards which are prepared by each local Fire Chief, the Dispatchers know what types of equipment need to be dispatched based on the incident from the first call taken. If there is a need to improve on training of Dispatchers for Law Enforcement operations or a need to establish SOP/SOG's for Law Enforcement, does making the decision to move the 911 operations from Emergency Services to the Sheriff become a necessary action or are there other ways to deal with this?

Now, at your February meeting, Freeholder Cross made a recommendation that the 911 operations be put under the oversight of the Sheriff. There was no communication with the Fire Service outside of an email and phone call to Director Pompper the day before your meeting that this was going to take place. Where is the written assessment and evaluation report? We find that the majority Freeholder Board took action on a matter this important without having written documentation, written facts, written recommendations/finding and allowing input on the report from all agencies that stand to be effected with this change.

The Fire/EMS community only found out about this surprise action through the social media and not from Freeholder Cross or any member of the Freeholder Board after the action was taken. When asked why we were not present, the answer is obvious, we weren't told the plan. We had no insight to this, since after our meeting in December we seemed to be given assurances that nothing would be done until the report was done and we were given an opportunity to comment on the report.

Prior to coming here this evening, the Chiefs of Salem County Fire Companies held a meeting this past Sunday evening, in which Freeholder Cross was present. We thank him for attending, but to this point, their questions and concernshave not been answered and more importantly, the availability of a written assessment/evaluation report on the findings and recommendations. Many times during his explanations of why this action was taken, he made the point of saying "I felt this needed to be done", "I recommended that this action be taken", "I came to the conclusion that we needed to do this". When questioned about the assessment and evaluation report, we were told it is forthcoming and will be available after all the changes are made. When questioned about the contents or basis of the report we were told it was based on verbal conversations and notes that Freeholder Cross himself had. At no time

was there mention of recommendations/notes, etc from the Sheriff who was supposed to do the assessment/evaluation. We were left with the feeling that there is no report or clear assessment, but only Freeholder Cross's notes and verbal conversations. That it seems like a report will be provided at some time AFTER changes are made. Shouldn't the assessment/evaluation report come first and then take action and make changes based on the report and not a report based on what you did after taking action?

Speaking from the perspective of a Fire Chief, anytime they approach their Township Committee or Council requesting funds or assistance, more times than not, the first thing they are asked is, provide us with the documentation and support for your request BEFORE we take it under consideration. They understand the process and therefore, go before their respective Township Committee or Council with the required documentation and support for their request to allow their governing officials the opportunity to review and make an educated decision based on the facts, not notes, not someone's verbal information. We find it offending that the Freeholder Board would take action on such an important function of the County without seeing first hand a written report on findings and recommendations.

Let me make it clear that this has nothing to do with the Sheriff, the Sheriff's Department or Law Enforcement, but has all to do with our dedication to the Fire/EMS service and our involvement in the 911 center operations since its inception. We are passionate about what we do, the 911 center that the Fire Service initiated back in the early days, what we have done to bring it to where it is today and do not want to see changes that are made to fix something that has nothing to do with the Fire/EMS service. From listening to Freeholder Cross's statements and lack of clear findings/answers at the meeting held this past Sunday, it appears to us that there are other options that could be explored to achieve the same results. Also, what role, if any, will the current Radio Advisory Committee play in the scheme of the proposed new arrangement?

We are here tonight to ask the Freeholder Board to reconsider their action taken in February. We ask that you rescind the motion to place the 911 operations under the Sheriff, at least until the currently alleged assessment/evaluation report is submitted in written form and all agencies, Fire, EMS, Law Enforcement and other comments and adequate time for the review of comments submitted by each agency prior to any action.

Thank you for giving me this time, on behalf of the Salem County Fire Chiefs, The Salem County Fireman's Association and members of local fire and EMS organizations of Salem County Fireman's Association and members of local fire and EMS organizations of Salem County, to address the Freeholder Board. We hope that you agree with us that, until a formal, written assessment/evaluation document is presented, action should be tabled to ensure that all aspects of the current operation have been evaluated and recommendations for correction are submitted in a non bias manner to ensure the continued success of our 911 Center.

CORRESPONDENCE GENERAL

Email from Mayor Linda DuBois follow up on "Countywide" shared Service meeting Feb 7th

Resignation letter from Mr. Tark on the Senior and Disabled Transportation Program

Cumberland County Freeholders passed Resolution 2013-80-Resolution Authorizing an Inter-Agency Agreement between the South Jersey Economic Development District and the Counties of Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland and Salem

Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders adopted Resolution Supporting Senate Bill 2420 and companion Assembly Bill 3495 addressing serious issue by mandating the use of emergency generators by certain critical businesses and facilities and provide a tax incentive to alleviate the cost of same

Letter from McKenzie Unhappy in regards to Salem County needing County Library

Email from Patty Bomba resigning from the VoTech/SpServices Sch Bd

Resignation letter from Sue Bestwick in regards to Improvement Authority

Resignation letter from Iris M. Pinero in regards to the Human Relations Advisory Board.

Salem County Improvement Authority Retiree Health Benefit Payment

Board of Chosen Freeholders County of Cape May changing Resolution #192-13

Letter from Mr. McCarthy concerning comcast

Motion was made by Deputy Director Cross to accept and file the correspondence, and the committee and commission reports and that they be made a part of the Minutes. The motion was seconded by Freeholder Laury. Motion was carried 7/0.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Salem County Office of Emergency Management/Minutes of the staff mtg 2/13/13

Southern Railroad Company of New Jersey monthly report

Motion was made by Deputy Director Cross that all Bills and Claims, when properly signed and audited, be paid and charged to their respective accounts with contingencies that an equal amount be deducted from the tract payment that is on there for the landfill fees for the disposal of some of the railroad issues.

COMMITTEE/COMMISSION MINUTES

Salem County Construction Board of Appeals minutes from the February 5th 2013 meeting.

Human Services Advisory Council Meeting Minutes from February 5, 2013

Salem County Improvement Authority Notice of Regular Meetings & 2013 Reorganization Meeting Minutes Feb. 18, 2013

Motion was made by Deputy Director Cross to accept and file the correspondence, and the committee and commission reports and that they be made a part of the Minutes. The motion was seconded by Freeholder Laury. Motion was carried 7/0.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer's Report dated February 21, 2013

PAYMENT OF BILLS & CLAIMS

Motion was made by Deputy Director Cross that all Bills and Claims, when properly signed and audited, be paid and charged to their respective accounts with contingencies that an equal amount be deducted from the tract payment that is on there for the landfill fees for the disposal of some of the railroad issues.

The motion was seconded by Freeholder Laury. The motion was carried 7/0.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE - Acton, Vanderslice, Ware

R. 2013 - 140

ADMINISTRATIVE

ADMINISTRATION OF SALEM COUNTY GOVERNMENT AND AUTHORIZE THE OFFICE OF THE SALEM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO PERFORM NECESSARY EXECUTIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS AT THE DIRECTION OF THE BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS OF THE COUNTY OF SALEM

R. 2013 - 141

ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION AWARDING A CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE OF OFFICE SUPPLIES FOR THE COUNTY OF SALEM AND COOPERATIVE MEMBERS OF PURCHASING SYSTEM IDENTIFIER NUMBER #75SCCPS(W.B. MASON COMPANY)

R. 2013 - 142

ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION APPOINTING A MEMBER TO THE SALEM COUNTY IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY

R. 2013 - 143

ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING AN IDENTIFICATION (ID) BADGE POLICY FOR THE COUNTY OF SALEM

R. 2013 - 144

ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION AMENDING SALEM COUNTY POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL

R. 2013 - 145

ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PURCHASE FOR MAINTENANCE OF EXISTING PROPRIETARY SURROGATE PROBATE SYSTEM FOR THE COUNTY SURROGATE OFFICE(COUNTY BUSINESS SYSTEMS, INC.)

R. 2013 - 146

ADMINISTRATIVE

EMERGENCY TEMPORARY RESOLUTION PRIOR TO ADOPTION OF BUDGET COUNTY OF SALEM

R. 2013 - 147

ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION APPOINTING THE DEPUTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR

R. 2013 - 147

ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION TO APPOINT MARSH MCLENNAN/ HEALTH INSURANCE SOLUTIONS, INCORPORATED (HISI), INSURANCE BROKER

Freeholder Vanderslice moved for the adoption of these nine resolutions, with Freeholder Bobbitt seconding his motion.

Freeholder Timberman commented on #4, Res. Est. County Badges. "I am assuming these are picture badges? Director responded yes.

Freeholder Timberman also commented on #1 Administration of Salem County Government and Authorize the Office of Salem County Administrator to Perform Necessary Executive and Administrative Functions, Freeholder Timberman is voting no and her concerns are the legality of the Resolution is

creating the position of an Executive Administrator, there only 5 counties in the State of NJ who have this position, Executive Administrator stands for election, elected by the people. So we are appointing a person with no input of the people of this county. You are creating a non-elected czar that will be running county government. This is a major change to how our county government is organized and to make this move without public input in my eyes is deplorable. If the majority was to change government in this fashion, they should put it in front of the voters as a referendum and if the people agree this position should be elected then so be it, if the majority moves forward with this resolution I think I can speak for the minority Freeholders, that we have no choice but to obtain outside Counsel and challenge the legality of this move, so I am moving that this Resolution be tabled until further investigation as to the legality, Freeholder Ware seconded her motion. Director Acton "I have a motion and a second" Roll call was read, motion was defeated 4-3.

Director Acton explained Salem County Improvement Authority wasn't written on the adgenda but that was Robert Wittifield from Pittsgrove and Resolution appointing Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator is Scott Haines. On Resolution #9, by going with this broker we are going to save over \$200,000.

Solicitor stated the corrections needed. Clerk of the Board asked for a motion to revise Resolution term of 10 months through December 31, 2013. Motion was made by Deputy Director Cross and second by Freeholder Ware, Motion carried of 7/0

Motion to move by Freeholder Vanderslice and second by Freeholder Bobbitt on all nine resolutions. Motion to move 2-9 with the Revision already voted on

Motion to move #1

Resolution passes 4-3

PUBLIC SERVICES COMMITTEE - Vanderslice, Acton, Ware

HEALTH COMMITTEE-Bobbitt, Cross, Acton

SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE - Timberman, Bobbitt, Laury

R. 2013 - 149

SOCIAL SERVICES

RESOLUTION AWARDING A CONTRACT FOR THE PROVISION OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES FOR THE COMMISSION ON DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE FOR THE COUNTY OF SALEM(B.R. WILLIAMS-\$10,000)

R. 2013 – 150

SOCIAL SERVICES

RESOLUTION APPOINTING A MEMBER TO THE SALEM COUNTY ADVISORY COUNCIL

R. 2013 -151

SOCIAL SERVICES

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF 2013 EXTENSION CONTRACTS FOR THE YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION

R. 2013-152

SOCIAL SERVICES

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF 2013 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACTS FOR THE YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION

Freeholder Timberman moved for the adoption of these four resolutions, with Freeholder Laury seconding her motion.

Director Acton "On Resolution 11 appointing members to Salem County Advisory it will be Janice Lombardo and Debbie Convoy

As there was no further discussion, the motion for adoption of these four Resolutions' was carried by a vote of 7/0.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE – Cross, Vanderslice, Timberman

R. 2013-153

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Resolution Authorizing Contract for Expert Opinion Services for the Salem County Prosecutor's Office(Prabhaker S. Patel, M.D.-\$650.00)

R. 2013-154

RESOLUTION APPROVING CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 FOR CONTRACT TO ENHANCE RADIO FREQUENCIES(RF DESIGN AND INTEGRATION, INC-\$5,265)

R. 2013-155

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION AWARDING A CONTRACT FOR DENTAL SERVICES FOR THE COUNTY OF SALEM(DENTRUST DENTAL P.A. \$38,352 & DENTAL HEALTH MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS \$39,500)

R. 2013-156

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION APPOINTING A MEDICAL SERVICES PROVIDER FOR THE SALEM COUNTY CORRECTIONAL FACILITY AND AUTHORIZING A PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT(SALEM HOSPITAL CORPORATION-\$375,000)

Deputy Director Cross moved for the adoption of these four resolutions, with Freeholder Bobbitt seconding his motion. As there was no discussion, the motion for adoption of the foregoing resolution carried by a vote of 7/0.

TRANSPORTATION, TOURISM, & AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE – Ware, Timberman, Laury R. 2013 – 157

TRANSPORTATION, TOURISM & AGRICULTURE

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PROPOSED ACQUISITION OF A DEVELOPMENT EASEMENT ON SICKLER FARM, ALLOWAY TOWNSHIP

Freeholder Ware moved for the adoption of this resolution, with Freeholder Timberman seconding his motion. As there was no discussion, the motion for adoption of the foregoing resolution carried by a vote of 7/0.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE - Laury, Ware, Cross

R. 2013 - 158

PUBLIC WORKS

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE APPLICATION FOR MOTORIST SOLICITATION PURSUANT TO RESOLUTION NO. 98-115 RT. 540 (ALMOND ROAD) AND RT. 645 (PARVINS MILL ROAD) APRIL $21^{\rm ST}$

R. 2013 – 159 PUBLIC WORKS

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE EXECUTION OF CHANGE ORDER #1 REPLACEMENT OF HOUSES MILL POND BRIDGE, COUNTY BRIDGE #1701-003 ON TELEGRAPH ROAD, COUNTY ROAD #540 IN ALLOWAY TOWNSHIP FOR THE COUNTY OF SALEM

R. 2013 – 161 PUBLIC WORKS

RESOLUTION APPROVING CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 FOR PROVIDING MOVING SERVICES TO THE COUNTY OF SALEM(NELSON WESTERBERG-\$2,200)

R. 2013-162 PUBLIC WORKS

RESOLUTION APPROVING CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 FOR PROVIDING MOVING SERVICES TO THE COUNTY OF SALEM(NELSON WESTERBERG-\$2,200)

Freeholder Laury moved for the adoption of these four resolutions, with Freeholder Ware seconding his motion. As there was no discussion, the motion for adoption of the foregoing resolutions carried by a vote of 7/0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Freeholder Bobbitt stated that he was in favor of moving the 911 to the Sheriff's Dept if we have proof that the move will result in more efficient operations and will save the tax payer money, my vote at the February 20th Freeholder meeting was based on information provided to me that there was a report showing the move, I now learn that no written report exists and no other information provided to me was complete. We should not move forward with any 911 operations until a full written assessment of this move is prepared and provides proof that this move will produce results. Therefore I make a motion to rescind the previous motion to make the transfer of the 911 center to the Sheriff's Office and motion that the operations of the 911 Center remain as it is. Freeholder Ware seconded his motion. Deputy Director Cross made a motion to table this motion, Freeholder Laury second. 4-3 vote, motion was tabled.

NEW BUSINESS

Freeholder Director Acton, at the Admin Mtg we had a security camera presentation by Doug Bell, this was done to get quotes on getting some extra security cameras not jjust for 5th Street Plaza but also new campus. Also did a Resolution for prescription plan which will show cost savings. Director shared proact statistics, savings have been substantial.

Salem and Gloucester County Council of Education invites Freeholders March 13th @ Botto's, starts at 4 and we will be holding our introduction to our budget hearing at 6pm

Freeholder Laury, Route 540 will be re routed as bridge will be rebuilt, looking at 3-5 month detour, on a nicer note, Greenville Bridge, they are putting in the pilings now

Deputy Director Cross I should elaborate on the table under that motion, the tabled motion till the next meeting. In the interim what was going to be part of my committee report, I handed out the formal written report, that came in from the Sheriff unbenounced to me, I received it today, you all have that in hard copy now and I ask that you all review that. In two weeks we will revisit the table.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Anyone wishing to speak please speak state your name and address for the record.

Please speak for just two minutes and please do not use any of our County employee names.

Maggie Maxwell-Mood

I am going to put on several hats, first one is Dr. Maggie Maxwell-Mood-As you know I am the grant writer for SCC and we have been exploring various grants to renovate the Donahue Bldg. for Handicap Accessibility and I like to make an inquiry as to would the county consider a small cities grant to be written for the college.

Freeholder Laury asked to get together her and Freeholder and discuss options.

Chairperson for Quinton Township Planning hat, thank you for the stop sign. Putting on another hat that says there is a grant that I have proposed to several different municipalities, it's a federally funded grant that looks at creating activities for people under the age 18 who are at risk for drug and alcohol abuse. I would like to submit some of that information to the County Freeholders to see if infact we cant get a grant acquired in the county. I heard you guys discussing badges, when I was hired for the county, I received a badge, and I wore that badge and it had a photo on it, so if in fact that has ceased, you only have to re esrtablish what was once already in place. Yes/No Director explained that policy was being reinforced. Last comment, I am President of the Salem Historical Society, I am treasurer for the Salem County Inter Agency and I am looking at volunteerism. Getting volunteers is extremely difficult, I ask that you look at those who volunteer regularly and give them some consideration as to what they have given up.

Sue Oliver, Penns Grove

Patty Bombas sister, spoke in reference and support of her sister's resignation from the Vo-Tech Board and understands Patty has chosen to rescind that resignation.

Patrick Bomba, Carneys Point

An email was prepared this afternoon and submitted to the board by his wife Patty Bomba, she did rescind her resignation, at that meeting there was a no motion taken when it was asked by the chairman to accept her letter.

Cindy Pelura, Carneys Point

Also speaking in support of Patty Bomba,

Director Actor thanked everyone for coming this evening and thinks it's very important that you know what's going on in County Government, whether you agree or disagree, you being involved, so thank you.

Pete Voros, Pittsgrove

Yes people chose to come and find out what's going on, but they are lacking information from what's going on. I don't understand why you're doing this to the 911 Center, your turning a center over to the Sheriff who is running a prison and a Sheriff Dept, has cost the tax payers tens of millions of dollars wasted money in overtime. You should be giving the prison and the Sheriff's office over to the 911 Center. Director, whose idea was it to do this? Director Acton "Thank you for your comments". Freeholder Deputy Cross said he made the recommendation. Mr. Voros then asked if procedures had changed to appointing members of the Improvement Authority. Director Actor stated they are 5 year appointments. Voros "cause we had a meeting Freeholder Cross attended and an invite should have went out to Mrs. Bestwick who was appointed to that position and now I see you appointed someone else. Director explained Bestwick resigned and Mr. Widdifield filled the position.

Joe Hiles, Woodstown

Thanked everyone for their support of the County 911 Dispatchers. Glad report came hot off the presses today, seems like it was passed out to the Freeholders, but it still does not negate the fact that a decision was made a couple weeks ago without that report. Mr. Vanderslice made the comment that he saw the report and felt that he had enough information to make a decision and I believe that Freeholder Laury echoed that and was going on recommendation that the people he trusted, Jigg's and Sheriff Miller. I'm glad that came out but not sure why the decision was made prior to everybody seeing that report and I don't understand why that was not rescinded being that report wasn't made available. I was never opposed to an outside entity performing an assessment of the Dept. of Emergency Services, in an effort to get better; another set of eyes may help us with something we missed. I'm not against change and management, direction or the shift to the Sheriff's Dept. What I am against was how this whole process was brought about, I'm sorry but something just stinks, I have not figured out whether it's the burning of polyester pants or the passing of the circus train. This administration sings about open and transparent

government, like it's your national anthem, but has cloaked itself behind a veil of secrecy and misinformation. As an employee I should not have to find out about a drastic change in my dept. via text, facebook or water cooler chit chat. We were told all dispatchers would have a chance to speak with officials conducting the assessment, to my knowledge only 4 were interviewed. None of which were Supervisors, only one has more than 10 years of service with the Dept. and the entire shift was neglected. I never saw the assessment team review operations or critique dispatches; I never saw them in the building at all. We were told we would be able to review the assessment after it was completed, we could use it as a tool to build on our strengths and improve on our weakness's, but a decision was made without any report being released until today. Depending on the time of day we are at, we are told that there is a report or there is no report, some Freeholders have seen it some have not. To my knowledge the Dept. heads have not seen it, dispatchers have not seen it, Union Heads have not seen it, Fire Chiefs, Ambulance Personnel and tax payers have not seen it. Our biggest problem at the communications center is that there is no communication. At the last mtg Freeholder Laury said "We need to trust the people who work for us and with us". I couldn't agree more. However, Julie Acton and her administration have created such a poor morale, distrust and fear that it will be hard for us to believe you, Sheriff Miller, John Cuzzupee or anyone else that you select to try and lead the county dispatch into the future. Director thanked Mr. Hiles

Clerk of the Board stated one item for closed session being litigation for County vs. Miller

County Solicitor Mike Mulligan explained he was not participating in closed session for litigation, reason being it is currently assigned to other council.

Freeholder Vanderslice motioned to enter into closed session at 8:35 PM, second by Freeholder Laury, carried 7/0.